

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 VO-01 SCA-01 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 /037 W

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R 301330Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2277

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6257

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USSAEC, SA, US CVIS

SUBJ: VISAS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TEHRAN JUNE 30 REPEATED YOU.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4724

LIMDIS

PLEASE PASS UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USSAEC, SA, US, CVIS

SUBJ: VISAS

1. DURING UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S MEETING JUNE 29 WITH  
MINSTATE FINANCE ABA AL-KHAYL, CHARGE' NOTED THAT AS A  
RESULT OF THE HEARTENING PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE U.S.-SAUDI  
COOPERATION, A MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF AMERICANS OF ALL  
KINDS AND BACKGROUNDS WOULD BE COMING TO SAUDI ARABIA.  
IN THIS RESPECT WE WONDERED WHAT THE PROSPECTS MIGHT  
BE FOR STREAMLINING SAG VISA PROCEDURES TO BRING THEM  
PERHAPS INTO LINE WITH THOSE THAT ARE STANDARD IN OTHER  
ARAB COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SYRIA AND EGYPT. SPECIFICALLY,  
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CHARGE' NOTED THAT WHILE IN THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF,

THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AS MANY AS 1000 ENTRIES INTO THE KINGDOM BY AMERICAN JEWS, THESE ENTRIES WERE AUTHORIZED BY INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND SAG WHICH WERE VERY TIME CONSUMING. CHARGE' SAID EMBASSY RECOGNIZED THAT VISA POLICY DID NOT FALL UNDER ABA AL-KHAYL'S AUTHORITY, BUT HE DESIRED TO POINT OUT THE POTENTIAL FOR DIFFICULTY WHICH NOW EXISTS WHEN AMERICANS COULD BE REFUSED VISAS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE JEWISH.

2. ABA AL-KHAYL PASSED THE MATTER OVER RATHER LIGHTLY. HE WAS SURE WE COULD AVOID ANY REAL TROUBLE ON THE ISSUE. AFTER ALL, HE SAID, SAG MIGHT REFUSE A VISA TO ONE OR TWO JEWS, BUT OTHERS WOULD COME INTO THE COUNTRY. ABA AL-KHAYL SAID THAT MUCH MISUNDERSTANDING EXISTS IN THE U.S. CONCERNING SAUDI BOYCOTT AND VISA POLICY. HE HELD TO THE OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH POLICIES COULD BE EXPLAINED SATISFACTORILY, AND WOULD NOT CAUSE OUR NATIONS EMBARRASSMENT IN THE FUTURE.

3. MR. ROBINSON DISAGREED. HE SAID TO ABA AL-KHAYL THAT WHILE NEITHER HE NOR THE USG WOULD PRESUME TO TELL THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WHAT ITS VISA POLICIES SHOULD BE, NONETHELESS THEY SHOULD--IN VIEW OF THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS--KNOW THAT FOR A GOVERNMENT TO DENY VISAS ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN OPERATING WITH A NON-SECTARIAN GOVERNMENT LIKE THE UNITED STATES. MR. ROBINSON WAS AWARE THAT IN PRACTICE, THE SAG HAD INFORMAL WAYS OF FACILITATING SUCH ENTRIES, BUT HE BELIEVED THAT UNLESS THE CONTRAINT WHICH AMERICAN JEWS NOW FACED IN COMING TO SAUDI ARABIA WERE RELIEVED, IT COULD SERIOUSLY HAMPER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO WORK AS CLOSELY WITH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AS IT WISHED. ABA AL-KHAYL SAID HE APPRECIATED MR. ROBINSON'S VIEWS AND FRANKNESS, AND WOULD GIVE THEM CAREFUL THOUGHT, ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEM WAS NOT DIRECTLY WITHIN HIS FIELD OF COMPETENCE.  
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